

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING DONNA LEITERMANN FOR HER HARD WORK AND DEDICATION AS A PUBLIC SERVANT IN THE FIFTH DISTRICT

HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2015

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Donna Leitermann as she transitions from Bangor Township Treasurer to Bay City Treasurer. She will start her new career with the city on June 22, 2015.

Ms. Leitermann began her work as a public servant as Deputy Treasurer in December 1992. Two years later, she was elected as Bangor Township Treasurer and continued to serve for five terms.

Concurrent to serving as Bangor Township Treasurer, Ms. Leitermann was the treasurer of Bangor Township Downtown Development Authority and committee member of Bangor Township Department of Public Works. For two decades, there has not been a major infrastructure project in Bangor Township for which she was not responsible.

Public servants like Donna Leitermann deserve respect and appreciation. Every day, she has done important work that has positively affected her community. Ms. Leitermann has also been a member and past president of the Bay County Treasurer's Association, member of the Michigan Treasurer's Association, and treasurer and board director of Bay Future of Bay County.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Donna Leitermann for her commitment to public service and thank her for diligently serving as Bangor Township Treasurer these past 21 years. I wish her all the luck as she begins a new chapter as Bay City Treasurer.

IN HONOR OF THE LAUNCHING OF DIRECT FLIGHTS BETWEEN HOUSTON GEORGE BUSH INTERCONTINENTAL AIRPORT (IAH) AND TAIWAN TAOYUAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (TPE)

HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2015

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the launch of direct flights between Taipei and Houston. The inaugural flight BR-52 is scheduled to arrive in Houston Airport at around 4:30 p.m. on June 19th, 2015. The new direct service will make it easier for my constituents to travel to Taiwan and destinations throughout Asia for both business and leisure.

The United States and Taiwan share a thriving economic partnership. The new direct

route will further enhance our close relationship by promoting business and tourism, which will result in new jobs and economic benefits for my constituents and all of Texas.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize and congratulate Houston Airport, U.S. and Taiwanese officials involved, and the large Taiwanese-American community in Houston for their years of effort to achieve this significant milestone.

RECOGNIZING DIANE GERBER

HON. DANIEL M. DONOVAN, JR.

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2015

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tireless dedication of Staten Island's Diane Gerber in serving our veterans.

Originally from Brooklyn, Diane currently resides on Staten Island, and as a grandmother of eight, who single-handedly raised three children, she found time to commit 25 years to the American Legion's Cespino Russo Auxiliary Unit #1544.

Ms. Gerber served on American Legion Auxiliary Unit and County committees. She later ascended to the roles of Secretary, Vice President, and President. While serving as chair of these committees, she was the model of a true American citizen: fundraising to purchase holiday gifts for hospitalized veterans and helping bridge the educational gap by granting scholarships to many students.

During her term as President, she geared her attention toward her project, "Soldier's Wish—Making Our Heroes' Wishes Come True." Through her leadership, over \$57,000 has been raised so far. These funds are dedicated to identify the un-met needs of uniformed heroes regardless of rank or branch of service.

Mr. Speaker, Diane Gerber's commitment to improving and supporting the lives of those who have served our great nation is the perfect example of a model American citizen. I commend her outstanding achievements and I am proud to honor this hero from New York's 11th District.

THE GOLDMAN ACT TO RETURN ABDUCTED AMERICAN CHILDREN: ASSESSING THE COMPLIANCE REPORT AND REQUIRED ACTION

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, international parental child abduction rips children from their homes and families and whisks them away to a foreign land, alienating them from the love and care of the parent and fam-

ily left behind. Child abduction is child abuse, and it continues to plague families across the United States.

Every year, an estimated 1,000 American children are unlawfully removed from their homes by one of their parents and taken across international borders. Less than half of these children ever come home.

The problem is so consequential and the State Department's previous approach of "quiet diplomacy" so inadequate, that Congress unanimously passed the Goldman Act last year to give teeth to requests for return and access. These actions increase in severity, and range from official protests through diplomatic channels, to extradition, to the suspension of development, security, or other foreign assistance.

The Goldman Act is a law calculated to get results, as we did in the return of Sean Goldman from Brazil in 2008.

But a law is only as good as its implementation.

Broken-hearted parents across America waited four years for the Goldman Act to become law and still await full U.S. government implementation of the law.

The State Department's first annual report that we are reviewing today should be a roadmap for action.

The State Department must get this report right in order for the law to be an effective tool.

If the report fails to accurately identify problem countries, the actions I mentioned above are not triggered.

Countries should be listed if they have high numbers of cases—30 percent or more—that have been pending over a year or if they regularly fail to enforce return orders, or if they have failed to take appropriate steps in even a single abduction case pending more than a year.

Once these countries are properly identified, the Secretary of State then determines which of the aforementioned actions the U.S. will apply to the country in order to encourage the timely resolution of abduction and access cases.

While the State Department has choice of which actions to apply, and can waive actions for up to 180 days, the State Department does not have discretion over whether to report accurately to Congress on the country's record, or on whether the country is objectively a non-compliant.

As we have seen in the human trafficking context, (I authored both the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 as well as the Goldman Act) accurate accounting of a country's record, especially in comparison with other countries, can do wonders to prod much needed reforms.

Accurate reporting is also critical to family court judges across the country and parents considering their child's travel to a foreign country where abduction or access problems are a risk.

The stakes are high: misleading or incomplete information could mean the loss of another American child to abduction.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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